



News Release

Shelby County Health Department
814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN 38105

NUMBER: **DATE:** Monday, October 17th, 2011
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE **CONTACT:** Heather Reynolds
www.shelbycountyttn.gov (901) 270-7179

Shelby County Mayor Prepares for Flu Season

Memphis, TN – The Shelby County Health Department encourages all citizens of Shelby County to get their seasonal flu vaccination. Join Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell on Wednesday, October 19th at Southland Mall Clinic at 3:45 p.m. as he prepares for the upcoming flu season by receiving his own seasonal flu shot.

“Seasonal flu vaccinations are on the of the most effective public health measures available to us. It is vital that each citizen take effective precautions to protect themselves and others from illnesses during cold and flu season,” says Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

According to the CDC, influenza is responsible for about 36,000 deaths annually in the U.S. The most vulnerable populations are the very young and the elderly. Everyone six (6) months and older should receive a flu vaccination each year. While everyone should get a flu vaccine each flu season, it's especially important that certain people get vaccinated either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications.

Those groups include:

- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with chronic medical conditions, including asthma and other lung diseases, heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes.
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
 - Health care workers
 - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
 - Household contacts and caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)

The flu vaccine is not recommended for some groups of people, including:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past.
- Children less than six (6) months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for this age group)

If you are looking for an extremely affordable option for season flu vaccinations this year, please visit the Shelby County Health Department's Drive-Through Flu Vaccination Drive that will be held this **Saturday, October 22nd** from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at Kirby High School (4080 Kirby Parkway). At the Drive-Through Flu Vaccination Clinic, seasonal flu vaccinations will be offered FREE of charge to all citizens over the age of six (6) months. Health insurance is not required; however, those on Medicare, Medicaid and TennCare will need to show their insurance cards.

"We encourage folks to take advantage of this affordable, quick and easy way to protect themselves and their families from the flu," says Yvonne Madlock, Director of the Shelby County Health Department.

For more information about the **SCHD Drive-Through Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic**, contact Heather Reynolds with the Shelby County Health Department at (901) 379-7157 during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All participants are encouraged to email flupod.2011@shelbycountyttn.gov to receive a packet of forms that can be filled out beforehand and brought to the clinic.

-END-